leading to augmentation of reserve base through improvement in mining methods, beneficiation and utilisation of low grade ore and rejects and recovery of associated minerals. The Government is according prior approvals for grant of concessions for mineral chromite in accordance with the policy.

Acquisition of tribal land for mining

2703. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that land of tribals is being acquired for mining operations in Jharkhand;

(b) whether it is also a fact that tribals are being forced to settle elsewhere; and

(c) if so, whether adequate compensation is being paid to the tribals for their rehabilitation and settlement?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The Government has announced the National Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R&R) Policy, 2007 on 31.10.2007. The policy provides for certain basic minimum requirements that must be met by all projects including mining activities leading to involuntary displacement of people. The R&R grants and benefits envisaged in the Policy applicable to all Project Affected Families including provision for alternate land, free houses, financial assistance, employment etc. The details of R&R Policy are available on the website of Ministry of Rural Development. Relief and Rehabilitation of land oustees whose land is being taken for mining operation in the State of Jharkhand, is also done as per the Rehabilitation & Resettlement Policy. Information about the Relief and Rehabilitation of tribals whose land was taken for coal and other mining activities in the State of Jharkhand is not centrally maintained.

Pollution by NALCO

†2704. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware of the serious allegation of spreading pollution, recently levelled against the public sector undertaking National Aluminium Company (NALCO);

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Pollution Control Board has made several comments on NALCO;

(c) if so, the measures being contemplated by NALCO to absolve itself of the allegations ; and

(d) the guidelines being issued by Government to NALCO in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) As per information obtained from National Aluminium Company Limited(NALCO), the Orissa State Pollution Control

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Board(OSPCB) has issued direction to NALCO on 10.11.2009 with respect to ash management in Captive Power Plant(CPP) under Section 33A of Water(Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Section 31A of Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

(c) NALCO has taken the following measures for ash management:

(i) Raising the dykes of ash ponds from 104 Meter Reduced Level(MRL) to 107 MRL to increase the life of the ponds.

(ii) For ash disposal into abandoned coal mines of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited(MCL), NALCO has obtained provisional clearance from MCL management to transport ash to Bharatpur (South) abandoned coal mines, Talcher Coal Field, Angul.

(iii) Additional 46 acre of land adjacent to ash pond No. 2 has been acquired for disposal of ash by high concentration slurry disposal mode at a later date.

(iv) Infrastructure has already been developed to dispose ash on the existing ash pond of Captive Power Plant by high concentration slurry disposal system for the new units No. 7 to 10 which will accommodate more ash per unit land area, over and above the disposal of ash by lean slurry method.

(d) NALCO has reported that OSPCB on behalf of State Government of Orissa has issued direction to the Company to comply to the conditions and is monitoring compliance through Regional Office of OSPCB, Angul.

Mineral deposits in North Eastern States

2705.SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there exist rich mineral stocks in the North Eastern States;

(b) whether the minerals including Uranium remain un-extracted;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the tribals are opposed to extraction activities in Khasi and Jaintia hills;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the manner in which Government is pursuing the matter?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) As per available information, fairly good Uranium deposit have been identified in the State of Meghalaya. Extraction is subject to statutory clearances. State-wise information on reserves/resources of minerals in the country is given in the Indian Mineral Year Book published by Indian Bureau of Mines, a copy of which has been supplied to the Parliament Library. Mining of minerals depends broadly on availability of mineral resources, economic viability, demand of the market etc. Under the liberalised economic environment, investment decisions, including choice of location, are taken by the entrepreneurs based on their techno-economic judgements and commercial considerations.